

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 02530 301810Z

ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 ARA-10

EUR-12 IO-13 /078 W

-----014824 301817Z /47

O 301746Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9585

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 2530

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ML, XA, CU, UR, MPOL

SUBJ: SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA: MALIAN PERCEPTIONS

REF: STATE 134913

1. TWO PRINCIPLES GUIDE MALIAN PERCEPTION OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA: THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF EVERY STATE TO CALL WHOMEVER IT WISHES TO ITS AID, AND THE NECESSITY OF PRESERVING BORDERS BEQUEATHED TO AFRICAN STATES FROM THE COLONIAL PERIOD. MALIAN AUTHORITIES WOULD THUS HOLD THAT ANGOLA HAD A PERFECT RIGHT TO REQUEST SOVIET AND CUBAN ASSISTANCE (AS DID ZAIRE IN ITS RECENT APPEAL FOR WESTERN AID) AND THAT SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY ACTION IN ETHIOPIA, WHILE PERHAPS REGRETTABLE, WAS NONETHELESS NECESSARY TO RESTORE TO ETHIOPIA ITS RIGHTFUL TERRITORY.

2. FROM A MALIAN PERSPECTIVE, THEN, SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA IS NOT A PROBLEM UNLESS THAT INTERVENTION PERSISTS AGAINST THE WILL OF A SOVEREIGN STATE. MALIANS WILL ADMIT THAT CUBAN'S ROLE AS SOVIET PARTNER IN AFRICA DOES DIM ITS NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS AND WOULD PREFER THAT CONFLICTS AMONG AFRICAN STATES BE RESOLVED BY AFRICANS THEMSELVES. NEVERTHELESS, CERTAIN AFRICAN CONFLICTS HAVE NOT BEEN RESOLVED WITHIN AN EXCLUSIVELY AFRICAN CONTEXT AND  
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MALI WOULD SEE SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN THESE CONFLICTS NOT AS ITSELF DIVISIVE BUT RATHER AS REFLECTING DIVISIONS THAT ALREADY EXIST.

3. THE MALIAN IDEAL FOR RESOLUTION OF INTER-AFRICAN CONFLICTS IS DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES INVOLVED AIDED BY ADVICE AND MORAL SUASION OF THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY. MALI THUS

SUPPORTS THE UNITED STATES' CONTINUING EMPHASIS ON FINDING  
AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS.  
BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

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